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## **PESTICIDES MEMORANDUM - REVISED June 2010**

### ***Pest Bird Control and the Peregrine Falcon Recovery Program in Ontario***

Since 1977, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) has coordinated the **Peregrine Falcon Recovery Program** to re-establish this *threatened* bird of prey in Ontario. Populations have been carefully managed, and are now showing positive signs of recovery. The recovery program involves the monitoring, management and protection of Peregrine Falcons nesting sites and territories in natural cliff areas and on buildings in several urban centres in Ontario, including Burlington, Haileybury, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Mississauga, New Liskeard, Niagara Falls, Nipigon, Ottawa, Port Colborne, Red Rock, St. Catharines, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, the Greater Toronto Area and Windsor.



A major concern of OMNR is the potential for secondary poisoning of these birds when either 4-amino-pyridine (Avitrol) or strychnine is used in the control of pigeons - a favourite prey of the Peregrine Falcon - and other pest birds such as European Starlings and House Sparrows. A bird that is affected by one of these pesticides may be an attractive and easy target for a Peregrine Falcon. Peregrines may feed the digestive organs of a captured pigeon to their young or even consume the organs themselves. If a corn kernel, impregnated with 4-amino-pyridine or strychnine, has not been fully digested by the bird prior to its capture by the falcon there is a high potential for secondary poisoning, which may cause either direct mortality or flight impairment causing collision-related mortality.

**Note.** Section 66 of Ontario Regulation 63/09 under the *Pesticides Act*, requires an exterminator who uses 4-amino pyridine or strychnine in a structural extermination to do the following:

- (a) place the pesticide so that it is inaccessible to humans and to animals that are not targeted by the extermination;
- (b) use the pesticide so that it is unlikely to come into contact with food or drink intended for consumption by humans or animals;
- (c) prepare a record, during the extermination, of each location where the pesticide is placed;
- (d) dispose of any exterminated animals on a daily basis in a manner that will prevent contact with humans or other animals; and
- (e) when the extermination is complete, remove the pesticide from every location where it was placed.

The continued recovery of this bird of prey is important to all of us and your cooperation is requested in using alternatives to chemicals for pest bird control. The enclosed information should assist you in developing alternative pest bird control programs. The local Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources office and community organizations involved in peregrine falcon partnerships can be contacted to

seek assistance and/or advice on alternative bird control measures.

The **Ontario Peregrine Falcon Recovery Program** is an important part of a national recovery program, coordinated with the Canadian Wildlife Service and other provincial governments. In an effort to protect these *threatened* birds of prey and their young we are requesting that **only non-chemical bird control methods be used within a 7.5 km radius of the identified intersections listed in the following table**. This memorandum is in effect both throughout the breeding season and the rest of the year while the adult birds remain in the vicinity. Although some urban-nesting birds migrate, many pairs now remain in the nesting territory year-round. Chemical bird control measures should not be undertaken as long as the peregrines remain in the nesting territory.

To obtain specific information regarding Peregrine Falcon activities at any specific site please contact the local MNR area biologist, listed in the following table:

**Only non-chemical bird control methods are requested to be used within a 7.5 km radius of the identified intersections listed in the following table:**

| <b>City</b>     | <b>Major Roadway Intersection</b>   | <b>OMNR contact - name</b> | <b>OMNR contact – telephone #</b> |
|-----------------|---|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Bowmanville     | Waverly Road and Highway 401  | Mark Heaton, Aurora        | (905) 713-7406                    |
| Burlington      | Burlington Skyway Bridge/QEW (Beach Blvd) & Hamilton Harbour outflow  | Anne Yagi, Vineland        | (905) 562-1196                    |
| Haileybury      | Hwy 558 at Hwy 11B  | Rebecca Geauvreau          | (705) 475-5502                    |
| Hamilton        | King St. West & Bay St  | Anne Yagi, Vineland        | (905) 562-1196                    |
| Kingston        | Princess St & Division St   | Todd Norris                | (613) 531-5728                    |
| London          | Within the city limits  | Ron Gould                  | (519) 773-4735                    |
| Mississauga     | 1) Southdown Rd. & Lakeshore Rd. West<br>2) Hurontario St. & Burnhamthorpe Rd   | Mark Heaton, Aurora        | (905) 713-7406                    |
| New Liskeard    | Hwy 11 at north end of 11B  | Rebecca Geauvreau          | (705) 475-5502                    |
| Niagara Falls   | Murray Hill & the Niagara Parkway (River Road)  | Anne Yagi, Vineland        | (905) 562-1196                    |
| Nipigon         | Railway St. & McKirdy Ave.  | Lisa Nyman                 | (807) 887-5111                    |
| Ottawa          | Kent St. & Queen St.  | Paula Norlock, Kemptville  | (613) 258-8417                    |
| Port Colborne   | Sugarloaf St. & West St.  | Anne Yagi, Vineland        | (905) 562-1196                    |
| Red Rock        | Baker Rd. & White Blvd.   | Lisa Nyman                 | (807) 887-5111                    |
| St. Catharines  | Intersection of King St. & Queen St   | Anne Yagi, Vineland        | (905) 562-1196                    |
| Sault Ste Marie | International Bridge at Canada-U.S. border  | Nathan Hanes               | (705) 941-5139                    |
| Sudbury         | 1) Edward St. & Smelter Rd<br>2) Frood Rd. & Turner Avenue<br>3) End of Richard Lake Dr & Hwy 69 (Daisy Lake)<br>4) Regional Rd. 24 & John Street - (Creighton) Lively  | Eric Cobb                  | (705) 564-7868                    |
| Thunder Bay     | James St. South & City Road   | Mike Deschamps             | (807) 475-1128                    |
| Toronto         | 1) King St. & Victoria St.<br>2) Queen St. & York St.<br>3) Bloor St. & Islington Ave.(Etobicoke)<br>4) Hwy #401 and Markham Road (Scarborough)<br>5) Bay St and Bloor St<br>6) Humber College Blvd & Hwy #27 (Etobicoke)<br>7) Burnhamthorpe Road & Mill Road (Etobicoke)<br>8) Yonge St and Eglinton Avenue | Mark Heaton, Aurora        | (905) 713-7406                    |
| Windsor         | College Avenue and Huron Church Line  | Melody Cairns              | (519) 773-4736                    |

**We ask that you please advise your clients of this request.**

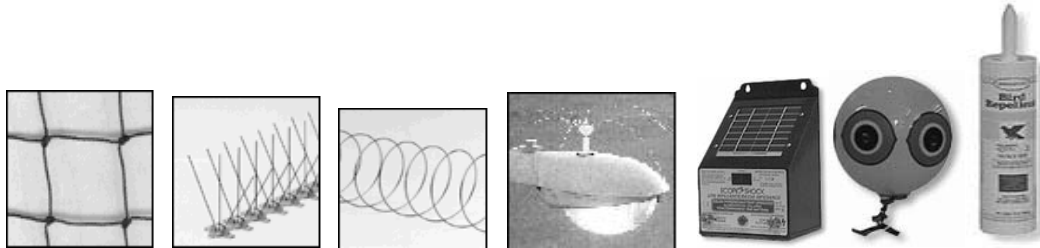
For information on the provincial Peregrine Falcon Recovery Program please contact Chris Risley, Species at Risk Branch, Peterborough, at (705) 755-1838 or Jennifer Chikoski, Species at Risk Biologist, Thunder Bay at (807) 475-1133.

For pesticide and regulatory information please contact Geoff Cutten, Senior Pesticides Regulatory Scientist, Toronto, at (416) 327-5174.

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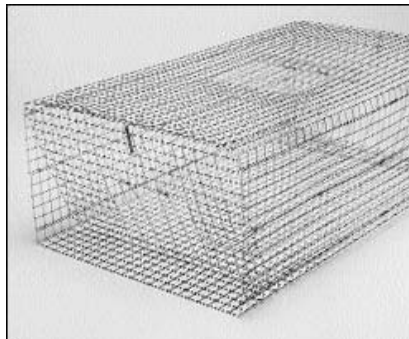
### Alternative Control of Birds

**Exclusion Methods:** include habitat modification by reducing the pest bird's access to food, water and roosting/loafing areas and by keeping out pest birds by using custom-designed sheet metal or plastic covers on ledges, sills, overhangs etc. Other exclusion tools include: netting, porcupine coil, spider wire, wire, electrified wires, eye balloons and sticky repellents.



The advantages of these methods are that the birds are not killed and the control is comparatively long-lasting.

**Trapping:** is especially with the use of toxicants or baiting and luring pigeons group of birds are roosting area, trapping should be The best time to trap is at a minimum. There which type and size is programs use large metres high and designed



effective against pigeons, however, as bird repellents trapping requires pre- to the chosen feeding bait site. Where a or feeding in a confined and isolated considered the primary control tactic. pigeons is in the winter when their food are many pigeon traps to choose from; best is debatable. Most pigeon trapping walk-in traps. These can be one to two to be disassembled and moved.

Larger traps can also be constructed using metal, plastic or wood framing and attaching chicken wire or netting to this framework. The door or entrance through which pigeons are lured is the principle feature of this and any trap and should be constructed and operated so that it will easily entrap the pigeons without frightening them away. A one-way door or "bob" is often used.

Set traps in inconspicuous places where pigeons commonly roost or feed and where traps are not likely to be vandalized (a major risk in trapping programs). Trap placement is important, and feeding areas are the best trap sites, but are rarely on the same property as the roosting sites. Roof tops that have water from cooling towers or air conditioning units are often good trapping sites in summer.

The most difficult part of trapping is motivating birds to feed in a non-feeding area so that they will follow the bait into the trap. Whole corn or sorghum are generally the best baits but wheat, milo, oat groats, millet, popcorn, sunflower seeds, peas, greens, bread, or peanuts can be very effective if the birds are feeding on similar food. No toxic bait is used. Once a few birds have been trapped, putting different foods in with the birds can determine which bait they prefer.

In the first few weeks of a program, scatter small quantities of bait throughout the area to start the birds feeding and determine the best trap sites. Some specialists leave traps propped open for the first few days to allow the birds to get used to the trap. When the birds are calmly entering the trap

the trap is then set. Place bait and water (a "chick font" is ideal) inside the trap and just a handful or so of bait outside the trap.

Remove trapped birds regularly and ensure birds are treated humanely during their time in the trap (shade, water and food). Leave one or two live "decoy" birds in the trap to draw in other birds. Since pigeons can fly great distances and find their way home, trap and release is not normally effective. Trapped birds can be humanely destroyed. A holder of a Structural exterminator licence can use strychnine-impregnated corn and feed it to the trapped pigeons. Consult local municipal by-laws for proper disposal of the dead birds.